

Melbourne is small, but regular cottage meetings are held and the prospects are fair for a further growth. An old Elder Robert D. Beauchamp who never returned to Utah, from whence he was sent as a missionary about 1869, died in a benevolent institution, at Geelong, September 7th, 1890. Geelong is a city situated on Port Phillip Bay, about forty-five miles southwest of Melbourne. Elder Santuel Charlton is now the local president of the Melbourne branch.

Melbourne is the metropolis and seat of government of the colony of Victoria. Its center lies in 37° 49' 53" south latitude, 144° 58' 42" east longitude. Melbourne is so named after Lord Melbourne, who was Premier of Great Britain at the time it was founded. In 1836 the present site of Melbourne was known as Beargrass or Bearpurt and on the 18th of June of that year it comprised thirteen buildings. The growth of the town during the past half a century has been most extraordinary, having developed from an unknown extreme corner of the British possessions with a handful of settlers to one of the large cities of the world, having an area of 5020 acres and a population of nearly half a million, and property of the neat value of nearly £1,900,000. Melbourne contains some of the finest buildings I have ever seen, and a number of very large business establishments. Among the latter is the so-called Cole's Arcade, which is supposed to be the largest book store in the world. Besides the million books on its numerous shelves, a very large assortment of general stationary stock is kept on hand, and sold both at wholesale and retail. The streets of Melbourne, generally speaking, are wide, straight and regular and cross its other at right angles; though only a part of them, and that particularly those in the suburbs, are made to conform to the cardinal points of the compass. The extensive government buildings, beautiful parks, excellent training system, electric light works, public institutions, etc., are features of great attraction to the stranger who visits the city. A most excellent library connected with an extensive museum and a fine art gallery, all collected and artificially arranged in one large building situated on Swanston Street speaks volumes of praise in behalf of an enterprising community. The municipality of Melbourne only embraces a small portion of the metropolis. Like Sydney the majority of the inhabitants live in suburban towns, which have separate town or municipal governments. The town proper is distant about three miles from Port Melbourne on Hobson's bay, where all the large steamers tie up. Some of the smaller vessels go up the Yarra river to points closer to the city centre.

The colony of Victoria, of which Melbourne is the capital, is situated at the southeast of the continent of Australia, and lies between the parallels of 34° and 39° south latitude, and meridians 141° and 150° east longitude. The largest river in Australia is the Murray, which separates Victoria from the colony of New South Wales. The extreme length of the colony from east to west is about 120 miles; its greatest breadth about 250 miles, and its area 87,884 miles, or 56,245,760 acres, which is about the size of Utah. The coast line, broken by several bays and capes, is about 600 geographical miles. A range of mountains traverses the entire length of the colony,

dividing it into two unequal parts; the highest peak has an elevation of 6,508 feet above the level of the sea. The population of Victoria at the close of 1893 was 1,170,330, of which 457,230, or more than one-third, resided in the city of Melbourne and vicinity, which in the year books are termed Greater Melbourne, and includes nine city municipalities, five town governments and a number of intermediate county or shire organizations. Victoria enjoys the distinction of being the greatest protective colony in Australia. The policy adopted in this regard is very much like that believed in and practiced by the Republican part of the United States of America. On the other hand, New South Wales, its neighbor on the northeast has lately been made a free trade colony; and consequently the future success and prosperity of the two colonies, which are very near alike in natural resources and other conditions, will be watched with the greatest interest both in the British possessions and America. And, in my estimation, it will be a literal test case to decide whether Australia ought to be a free trade or a protected country. Victoria is the smallest of all the Australian colonies in point of area, but the second in importance in point of population,

ALBANY, West Australia, May 16th, 1896.  
ANDREW JENSON.

### WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE.

The West Virginia Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was held in the Ruggles Opera House, Vanceburg, Lewis county, Kentucky, July 31st and August 1st and 2nd, 1896. Vanceburg is the county seat of Lewis county and has a population of 1,100 people. Situated as it is in a bend of the Ohio river, reached by means of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad and by steamboats which daily ply their trade on this majestic river, and lying below Portsmouth and above Cincinnati and Louisville, it becomes at once a prominent place and accordingly we prepared to hold our conference here. The citizens kindly opened their houses to us for the accommodation of the Elders and visiting Saints, and never before were men made more welcome.

For the past five weeks Elders W. Rydalch, W. H. Burrows, W. H. Morrell and Elias S. Woodruff have been preparing for the reception of the brethren in conference. Everything that could be done was done and our arrangements were complete.

Thursday, July 30th, the Elders began gathering, and many a smiling face and extended hand were seen as the brethren met each other, some of them the first time for a year. We all gathered at Pleasant Hill, near Vanceburg, where we met our worthy president, Elias S. Kimball, who greeted us with a speech of welcome, questioned us as to our labors and then called upon each Elder to report his year's work, which was done, and general good treatment was reported and an awakened interest on the part of the people to hear the Gospel from the lips of the humble hunters and fishers whom God has chosen to bear His message in this dispensation.

Priesthood meeting adjourned until Monday, August 3rd, and at 8 a. m. general conference was opened by W. E. Rydalch, president of the West Virginia

conference, who called the assembly to order and in a few well chosen words explained our mission among this people as a work of love and not a work of pulling down other creeds. He urged the people to look well into the divine evidence that would be presented and then judge us and our cause. The subjects of faith, obedience, and character of God were ably discussed Friday night, July 31st.

Saturday morning at 10 a. m. the subject of Repentance was taken up; at 2 p. m. Baptism was discussed, and the essentiality, mode, object and proper subjects, plainly shown. At 8 p. m. President Kimball addressed the congregation and spoke of the manner in which we travel among the people, having left our families and loved ones for the Gospel, believing in the words of Christ, that he that is not willing to sacrifice worldly goods and friends for His sake is not worthy of Him.

Sunday, August 2nd, at 10 a. m. President Kimball again addressed the congregation, taking for his text the 37th verse of the 24th chapter of Matthew, "But as the days of Noe were so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be," etc. He showed how the message was rejected and laughed at in that age, and of necessity it will be in this age; also touched upon the organization of the Church in the days of Christ, comparing our organization to it. At 2 p. m. the subject of the Holy Ghost was discussed, and at 8 p. m. President Kimball again addressed the vast congregation for a short time. He spoke of the wonderful growth of our enterprises and the wondrous way in which our people have been blessed of God. Elder Rydalch then spoke on the history of the Church. He pictured the early life of Joseph Smith, the rise of the Church, their travels and persecutions and the martyrdom of our beloved leaders. The story brought tears to the eyes of the listeners. A crowded house listened to this discourse and a warm feeling was felt, as with a hearty hand shake we were bidden God speed by our friends.

After President Kimball concluded his remarks, each Elder in turn bore a faithful testimony. They all declared their intention of obeying in every particular the instructions given. Among others was a request that each Elder, at his earliest convenience, would send his big grip home and have no more headquarters.

The Spirit of God was resting upon us in mighty power, and never before were stronger testimonies borne.

President W. E. Rydalch, in behalf of the Elders of this conference, presented resolutions to President Kimball that he use every means in his power to start a newspaper in the Southern States Mission.

In the evening a well attended meeting was held in the Pleasant Hill school house, President Kimball did the preaching. The meeting was continued until Thursday night, ending with a program given by the Elders for the amusement of our many friends.

Friday morning we had the privilege of baptizing four more souls into the Church.

Our course of work for the last year has been very systematic. Last fall Elder Kimball instructed Elder Rydalch to visit each pair of Elders in their counties, an account of which has been sent you. Before commencing those